

UNITED STATES  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
BMB:MRZ

December 14, 1950

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Genetics Department  
University of Wisconsin  
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Josh:

I am sorry to be a little late in writing, but I have been unable to get around to it earlier. I shall attempt to answer the questions in your last two letters concerning the contract.

It will be unnecessary to send reprints of a curriculum vitae.

The March 1st date should be O.K. It will require approximately a week after we receive it to process it here in the Washington office. The big question is the size of the backlog in the Chicago Operations Office where the contract will actually be negotiated. I think that they should be able to do it by March 1st.

I do not anticipate any major changes in the AEC policy as you suggest in your letter of December 5. Hence, I think it is all right to proceed with the small contract. As to overhead, we have attempted to duplicate the N.I.H. overhead rate of 8%. This is 8% of the total contractual amount, and the bulk of our contracts have been written with this figure, or a lower one.

The formal application could be addressed to the Atomic Energy Commission while the letter of transmittal could be addressed to me. As to reports, we request a 200 word outline of the scope and progress of the research to be sent immediately upon completion of the contract negotiations, a report after one year of activity, and additional optional reports as the investigator may wish to call our attention to significant results. I think the annual report is useful for supporting the renewal request. I am sure that you will agree with this rather sensible attitude concerning reports.

In conclusion, therefore, I think we can proceed with your contract very quickly upon receiving the formal application.

Very truly yours,



Max R. Zelle  
Geneticist, Biology Branch  
Division of Biology and Medicine